

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

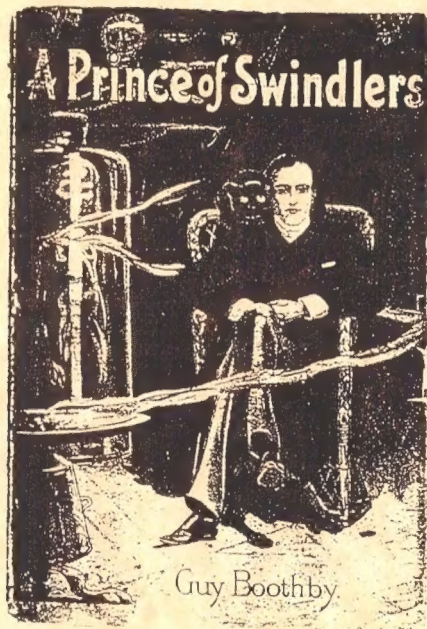
A magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and study of old-time dime and nickel novels, popular story papers, series books, and pulp magazines

Vol. 65, No. 2

April 1996

Whole No. 638

DIME NOVEL SKETCHES



No. 277: PALL MALL SERIES

Publisher: Buckeye Publishing Co., Cleveland, OH (Arthur Westbrook Co.) Issues: 15. Dates 1907 to Dec. 1908. Schedule: Monthly (announced as semi-monthly in first issue). Size: 8¼ x 5½ inches. Pages: 120 to 150. Price: 15c. Illustrations: Colored pictorial cover. Contents: Adventure and mystery stories by Guy Boothby, Louis Tracy and others.



THE HITCHING POST

This is our sixty-fifth year of continuous publication, a milestone few other magazines for collectors and scholars can match. Only *Story Paper Collectors' Digest* in England (now celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year) comes close. We believe it is healthy to take stock of our past and where we stand every now and again. To that end we devoted the editorials in the past three issues to definitions of the publications in our three major areas of interest: dime novels, pulp magazines, and series books, at least as we see them.

The present issue contains an account by Jack Dizer of the true origin of *Boys' Life* magazine as well as some of our regular features. Rocco Musemeche pays fond tribute to another of his favorite story-tellers, Charles Alden Seltzer; we take a brief look at the history of the original publisher of dime novels, Beadle & Adams; and "Fulminations" continues our commentary on that minor masterpiece *Legend*.

We have some special anniversary articles planned for the next four issues in this remarkable year. Keep your subscriptions current.

Founding Editor: Ralph F. Cummings
Editor Emeritus: Edward T. LeBlanc
Editor: J. Randolph Cox
Assistant Editor: Deidre A. Johnson

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

John T. Dizer Deidre A. Johnson Edward T. LeBlanc
Lydia C. Schurman

BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

J. Randolph Cox Deidre A. Johnson Richard Bleiler

Circulation Assistant: Brian KenKnight

Dime Novel Round-Up Vol. 65 No. 2
(USPS 157-140)

Whole No. 638 April 1996
(ISSN 0012-2874)

Published six times a year at P.O. Box 226, Dundas, MN 55019. J. Randolph Cox, editor, same address, to whom new and renewal subscription, address changes and advertising should be sent. Subscription \$15 per year, \$27 for two years. Advertising rates: \$25 full page, \$15 half page, \$10 quarter page, \$5 eighth page or less. Back cover, \$50. **All editorial and advertising material for the next issue should reach the editor by May 10, 1996.** Second class postage paid at Dundas, MN 55019. Postmaster: send form 3579 to P.O. Box 226, Dundas, MN 55019.

Printed by Small World Press, Inc. 300 Railway Street N, Dundas, MN 55019.

BOYS' LIFE: THE REAL BEGINNINGS

John T. Dizer
Utica, New York

The Boy Scouts of America got it all wrong. I mean their story as to how the magazine *Boys' Life* was started. The Boy Scouts of America is a great organization. Scouts and Scouters are good campers, provide great role models for boys—usually—and emphasize positive character development. But they are not very good historians.

Boys' Life publishes a fact sheet on its history.¹ It says—among other things—that *Boys' Life* was conceived by a Rhode Island Boy Scout named Joe Lane who called it *Boys' Life* and added the phrase "The Semi-Official Publication of the Boy Scouts of America." The fact sheet goes on to say that the first issue appeared in March, 1911, was journal size, and ran 48 pages. It adds that a year later the magazine was purchased by the Boy Scouts of America and that its circulation in 1912 was 6,000. It appears that every one of those statements is false. Who supplied the information for the fact sheet is uncertain. Evidence can be found in the writings of the first Chief Scout Executive, James E. West, but similar statements are also made in the history of Scouting in Rhode Island and Murray's *The History of the Boy Scouts of America*.² Both West and Murray also state that Lane called *Boys' Life* "the official organ of the Rhode Island Boy Scouts"—which is also false.

The true founder, publisher, and editor of *Boys' Life* was not Joseph Lane, but George S. Barton of Somerville, Massachusetts, a Boston publisher and early Scout. Barton was also a collector and researcher in the dime novel field, a fact which Franklin K. Mathiews, Chief Scout Librarian of the Boy Scouts of America and arch enemy of dime novels, would have deplored. In terms of historical research into *Boys' Life*, however, much of the available information has come from *Dime Novel Round-Up* and such dime novel collectors as Ralph Smith. My initial contact with the true first issue of *Boys' Life* came from Stanley Pachon, outstanding scholar in the juvenile book field and a very generous man. He knew of my interest in Scouting history and sent me an almost mint copy of *Boys' Life* dated January 1, 1911, and identified on the first

page as Vol. 1, No. 1. At that time my earliest copy of *Boys' Life* was dated March, 1911, and it is this issue which the Boy Scouts of America has always claimed is Vol. 1, No. 1. However, the two issues are completely different, and it is obvious something isn't right. Where did Stanley get his copy? From Ralph Cummings, the founding editor of *Dime Novel Round-Up*. Where did Ralph get it? From George Barton, who was the founder, publisher, and editor of *Boys' Life*, who gave the copy, as well as later copies, as an editorial courtesy to his friend Ralph Cummings. An ardent and knowledgeable collector of dime novels, Barton was a long time member of the "Happy Hours Brotherhood" and contributor to the *Round-Up*. There are frequent mentions of Barton in the magazine from at least 1934 until his death in 1949. Barton's 15-year-old grandson even had an article, "A Defense of the Dime Novel," published in *Dime Novel Round-Up* in 1945.³

1910 was a time of tremendous growth for Scouting in this country. It had mushroomed after its introduction in 1908 and many independent troops and several national or state organizations had been formed. In 1910 the YMCA was a driving force behind the new movement and was busily promoting Scouting when it learned a Chicago publisher named Boyce had incorporated his group, called the Boy Scouts of America, in Washington, D.C. After negotiations, the YMCA Scouts and Boyce got together as one organization. The Rhode Island Boy Scouts, the American Boy Scouts, and the New England Boy Scouts were also formed in 1910. The New England Department withdrew from the American Boy Scouts in late 1910 and became the New England Boy Scouts with E.W. Gay (soon to be circulation manager of the magazine) as Vice-Chairman, George S. Barton as Treasurer, and Sgt.-Major Edwin R. Short as Secretary. (Both Barton and, the first assistant editor of *Boys' Life*, had been Scout masters in the New England Department of the Hearst American Boy Scouts.) There were many similar organizations such as the "Order of the American Boy" which stood for "Manliness in Muscle, Mind, and Morals" and was sponsored by *The American Boy Magazine*. All these groups were competing with each other.

The time was right for a Scouting magazine and the first issue of *Boys' Life* appeared on January 1, 1911. (Looking at the Scouting time-line, one day later, on January 2, 1911, James E. West joined the Boy Scouts of America as Executive Secretary.) That January issue of *Boys' Life* was quite different from any of the later issues. It was not journal size and did not have 48 pages. It was more like a story paper, 11" x 15 1/2", with only 8 pages but it had five columns per page and contained, according to Barton, "As much reading matter and more

illustrations than any five-cent weekly contains." The masthead features a Scout in uniform with a rakish campaign hat, giving a rather unusual "palm to the front" salute. To me, the Scout strongly resembles Tom Swift (who certainly had all the Scouting characteristics). The heading reads *Boys' Life, The Boys' and Boy Scouts Magazine*, and the cost is 5 cents. It does not say, and never did say, either "The Semi-Official Publication of the Boy Scouts of America," or "The official organ of the Rhode Island Boy Scouts." Since none of the officers belonged to the Boy Scouts of America there was no reason to publicize the competition. Just below the masthead is "No. 1, Vol. 1" followed by "January 1, 1911." "Issued Twice a Month" appears on later pages. In addition to stories and a serial, there were a number of features including "Scouting Games," "The Work of Today's Scouts," and "Hints from Famous Scouts."

In "Round the Campfire," signed by "Your Editor, Geo. S. Barton," Barton listed his goals for the new magazine:

In presenting this first number of *Boys' Life* to the American Boy Scouts, and to boys who are not Scouts, we have two objects in view. First—to furnish the Scouts with a paper which they may consider their own, and which will keep them in touch with patrols all over the country, to give them hints and instructions on Scouting, how to play Scouting games, and to supply them with good, clean, stirring stories of adventure. Second—to place in the hands of all boys a paper of which they may be proud, and one which they will not be afraid to have their parents see them reading. We want every boy to show this copy of *Boys' Life* to his parents, as them to read it, and compare it with the cheap five-cent weeklies that are now being sold.

Barton also wrote, "The boys of this country...are not desirous of wading through pages of blood and horror, impossible detective yarns, or stories in which crime and violence play a leading part." Since *Boys' Life* also cost five cents Barton apparently felt the need to divorce himself from dime novels and the like. On page two of *Boys' Life* is an article taken from the *Boston Journal* called "The Boy Scout Movement Invites Union." It begins,

It will strike those who have followed the development of the boy scout movement that the committee which has been looking over the local field has done the movement a great service by recommending that means be taken to bring about a union of the Boy Scouts of America and the American Boy Scouts.

It continues "Both the Boy Scouts of America and the American Boy Scouts have been successful, so far as membership goes, and having started so well it

would seem as if what remains to be done could be done best by co-operation [sic]." It was a nice dream.

The 2 ½ column section on troop activities of the American Boy Scouts reported both impressive activities and numbers. Among the reports, "The Everett troop of ninety American Boy Scouts paid a visit to the U.S. Military Post, Fort Banks, Winthrop . . . There are over 300 American Boy Scouts in Bridgeport, Conn., all uniformed."

In the Boy Scouts of America section (only 1 ½ columns) the "Committee on Organization Boy Scouts of America" listed Ernest Thompson Seton, Author and Naturalist, as Chairman along with W. D. Boyce, Dan Beard, Edgar M. Robinson, and others and noted "The above committee has executive powers and is acting for and forming the National Council."

The formation of the New England Boy Scouts was mentioned but rated less than half a column, probably because they had just seceded from the American Boy Scouts on December 20. It was noted that the Rhode Island Boy Scouts had applied for a State Charter from the American Boy Scouts.

The stories and features still read well after 83 years and all in all the first issue of *Boys' Life* is quite impressive, but Barton wasn't satisfied. On page 7 is a notice, "*Boys' Life* to be Enlarged": "Commencing with No. 2, *Boys' Life* will be increased in size to a sixteen-page paper, and greatly improved in many ways." The partial contents of No. 2 were listed along with—"Watch for No. 2—In its new form *Boys' Life* will be the finest boys' magazine ever published for five cents."

Since *Boys' Life* was advertised as being issued twice a month, issue No. 2 should have appeared in the middle of January. It didn't. It didn't appear in February. The second issue finally appeared on March 1 and has been confusing historians ever since. Barton obviously spent the two months in planning even more improvements than he had advertised. He made a great many changes to the magazine. The physical size was decreased to about 6 ½" by 9 ½" but the number of pages was increased, not just to 16 as promised in the January *Boys' Life*, but to 48. The Tom Swift-like Scout still appeared on the first page. This issue had essentially all the stories and features promised in the January issue but also included much revised and reprinted material from the first issue. To illustrate, the first installment of the serial "For His Vow's Sake" was reprinted from the January issue though the second installment had been promised. "Knots worth knowing" was also repeated. "Maxims for Scouts" was reprinted but revised. The second article on "The Work of Today's Scouts" appeared as promised but it was numbered No. 1. (The January "The Work of Today's

THE BOYS' LIFE

The 5ct. MAGAZINE

Published by George S. Barton & Co., 21 Devon Street, Somerville, Mass.

NO. 1 VOL. 1

JANUARY 1, 1911

TRADE MARK

THE STOWAWAY'S POWER

How a poor boy who understood horses made good use of his knowledge when a cyclone raged.

By N. L. CARPENTER.

As the "Hindale" stood at anchor out of Boston Harbor, the wind blew from the north, and the waves rolled in from the north. The ship was a small schooner, and the crew was small. The captain was an old man, and the crew was made up of a few sailors and a few boys. The ship was a small schooner, and the crew was small. The captain was an old man, and the crew was made up of a few sailors and a few boys.

There was a boy on the ship, and his name was Harry. He was a poor boy, and he was a stowaway. He had been on the ship for a long time, and he had learned a lot about the ship and the crew. He was a poor boy, and he was a stowaway. He had been on the ship for a long time, and he had learned a lot about the ship and the crew.

One day, the ship was in the harbor, and the wind was blowing from the north. The waves were rolling in from the north, and the ship was a small schooner. The crew was small, and the captain was an old man. The crew was made up of a few sailors and a few boys.

Harry was on the ship, and he was a stowaway. He had been on the ship for a long time, and he had learned a lot about the ship and the crew. He was a poor boy, and he was a stowaway. He had been on the ship for a long time, and he had learned a lot about the ship and the crew.

One day, the ship was in the harbor, and the wind was blowing from the north. The waves were rolling in from the north, and the ship was a small schooner. The crew was small, and the captain was an old man. The crew was made up of a few sailors and a few boys.

Harry was on the ship, and he was a stowaway. He had been on the ship for a long time, and he had learned a lot about the ship and the crew. He was a poor boy, and he was a stowaway. He had been on the ship for a long time, and he had learned a lot about the ship and the crew.

One day, the ship was in the harbor, and the wind was blowing from the north. The waves were rolling in from the north, and the ship was a small schooner. The crew was small, and the captain was an old man. The crew was made up of a few sailors and a few boys.



One day the boy saw the horses fall, then that was down screaming, biting, and kicking with terror. Harvey mounted the grey and galloped up and down the gang way of the pitching ship, striving in vain to save the horses.

Harry was on the ship, and he was a stowaway. He had been on the ship for a long time, and he had learned a lot about the ship and the crew. He was a poor boy, and he was a stowaway. He had been on the ship for a long time, and he had learned a lot about the ship and the crew.

One day, the ship was in the harbor, and the wind was blowing from the north. The waves were rolling in from the north, and the ship was a small schooner. The crew was small, and the captain was an old man. The crew was made up of a few sailors and a few boys.

Harry was on the ship, and he was a stowaway. He had been on the ship for a long time, and he had learned a lot about the ship and the crew. He was a poor boy, and he was a stowaway. He had been on the ship for a long time, and he had learned a lot about the ship and the crew.

One day, the ship was in the harbor, and the wind was blowing from the north. The waves were rolling in from the north, and the ship was a small schooner. The crew was small, and the captain was an old man. The crew was made up of a few sailors and a few boys.

Harry was on the ship, and he was a stowaway. He had been on the ship for a long time, and he had learned a lot about the ship and the crew. He was a poor boy, and he was a stowaway. He had been on the ship for a long time, and he had learned a lot about the ship and the crew.

Scouts" article was also reprinted but in a later issue.) The section on "The Boy Scouts News and Notes" was basically a repeat of the January troop reports except that almost all the former American Boy Scout troops had changed their affiliation and were reported as New England Boy Scouts. No troop reports from the Boy Scouts of America appeared in this section. Barton's own column "Round the CampFire" was revised and generally repeated. In January he had said, "In presenting this first number of *Boys' Life* to the American Boy Scouts, and to boys who are not Scouts . . ." while in March it became, "It is with great pride that I place the first number of *Boys' Life* in your hands . . ." This seems to show clearly that with all the changes that Barton was making, both in format and contents, that he decided to start over with his numbering. Although logically this issue should be number two as promised, Barton called the issue "Vol. 1. No. 1., First March Edition." We might also note that Barton never, in later issues, referred to the January *Boys' Life* and that later issues referred to the first March issue as Vol. 1. No. 1. It is equally clear, however, that the March issue of *Boys' Life* was not the first issue but the second.

Barton came out with a second March issue and one issue in April of 1911. There was no issue in May while he was switching to a monthly publishing pattern. From June, 1911, on, *Boys' Life* appeared once a month.

The magazine did not change greatly in appearance from the first March issue of 1911 until after Barton sold the magazine in June 1912. This was, incidentally, 17 months after its founding and not "a year later" as the Boy Scouts of America "fact sheet" states.

A careful reading of the issues of the period shows the action—as well as the in-fighting—on the Scouting front. Because of Barton and his staff's orientation the January issue had emphasized the Hearst organization, the American Boy Scouts, more than the Boy Scouts of America. By March the Hearst Scouts had been almost entirely replaced by the New England Boy Scouts. Apparently the New England Boy Scouts never received the State Charter they requested and they eventually disappeared from *Boys' Life*. The early New England Boy Scout officials of *Boys' Life* (except for Barton himself) also disappeared and were replaced by Joseph Lane as Advertising Manager and Assistant Editor in March and by Jack Glenister, "first man to swim the Niagara Rapids," as Treasurer in July.⁴

In reading the reports of Scout troop activities it is often hard to figure out which organization the troops belonged to, but in the space of a year and a half the emphasis shifted more and more to the Boy Scouts of America. Only the Rhode Island Scouts also had a special column. The first March issue carried a

notice of the organization of the Boston Council of the Boy Scouts of America on February 6, 1911, and James E. West "came on from Washington to attend the meeting." In April of 1911 Barton recommended Baden-Powell's handbook *Scouting for Boys* for Scouting information but by September he was calling the new Boy Scouts of America manual, "one of the finest books that I have ever had brought to my attention."

From the increasing attention paid to news of the BSA Scouts it appears that not only was the BSA outdistancing its competitors but that both Barton and Lane had become sympathetic to the BSA. In July the BSA executive committee "has ordered the manual, giving instructions to the scouts, to be changed so that every military phrase or title shall be stricken out. The idea is to eradicate from the boy's mind any thoughts of war." The BSA and the ABS seemed to be moving further and further apart. In July, the Executive Board of the BSA announced there would be no national Encampment of Boy Scouts but the New England Boy Scouts announced a summer camp from July 10th to September 7. The Rhode Island Boy Scouts made their first public appearance as a combined body (1,000 Scouts) and received their troop flags.

"Boy Scout News and Notes" in August reported both BSA troop activity and unidentified Boy Scout troop activity. From the descriptions the western troops seemed to have been American Boy Scouts or independents. In New England neither The New England Boy Scouts nor the ABS were mentioned by name though BSA troops were generally identified as such. In September the new head of American Boy Scouts, General Edwin A. McAlpin, was announced but there is little news of ABS troops, at least identified as such. Also, "The United Boy Scouts, composed of the Woodcraft Indians, the Boy Scouts of America, and the United States Scouts, held their annual camp at Wyndygoul, the home of Ernest Thompson Seton."

The October cover featured the BSA pin on the cover together with a Scout who is apparently in the BSA uniform, the Boy Scouts of America had a full page "Heart to Heart Talk on the Boy Scout Movement." "Boy Scout News and Notes" reported that 50 members of the New England Boy Scouts from the troops of Everett, Malden and Cambridge "enjoyed a big outing at Mt. Hood." This is the last reference noted in *Boys' Life* to the New England Boy Scouts.

In October the Rhode Island Boy Scouts gave a little of their history, noting that they made application to the American Boy Scouts on August 30, 1910, and were formed as the American Boy Scouts of Rhode Island but that on March 12, 1911, they voted to break away from the ABS and become the Rhode Island Boy Scouts. The trends were fairly obvious. By the following May, "Arthur R.

Eldred, member of the Boy Scouts of America, First Eagle Scout in the United States" was featured while at the same time a column headed by "Must Lay Down Arms to Join Scouts of America" noted that "More than 1300 boys who are members of the brigades of American Boy Scouts in Los Angeles, Cal., have made petition . . . to join the Boy Scouts of America."

In his monthly column Barton promoted the magazine and gave a glowing account of changes and improvements to *Boys' Life*. He announced in August, 1911, that *Boys' Life* was selling over 35,000 copies per issue. By January of the following year Barton stated that he had started with 25,000 copies and was now up to 65,000. It is interesting to note that the magazine moved four times in a year and a half, due we would expect, to its success.

Barton had what might be called an enlightened attitude towards popular Scout books. In the June, 1911, issue he reviewed most favorably the Payson book, *The Boy Scouts of the Eagle Patrol*, published by Hearst. Coincidentally Hearst had a full page ad for its various series. By July the Hearst Series, including two Payson Scout titles, were advertised as premiums for selling subscriptions to *Boys' Life*: "Never since the first 'Henty' and 'Oliver Optic' series, have stories been printed that so enthrall the boys. Every chapter a session of thrills . . ." In later issues Donohue advertised its Boy Scout Series and even in September of 1912, three months after the BSA had bought the magazine, an ad for the series, "by that great nature authority and eminent Scout Master, G. Harvey Ralphson," appeared on page 28 while, ironically, Franklin K. Mathiews' feature, "Books Boys Like Best" appeared on page 29. According to Murray's history, Mathiews was also editor of *Boys' Life* at that time.⁵

The magazine had an equally liberal attitude towards advertisements, apparently feeling that if they brought in money they were appropriate. Examples were advertisements for raising poultry, for .22 caliber rifles, for invisible ink, taxidermy, real estate, painting and paper hanging, an international cornet school, and the smallest Bible on earth. One ad read: "Old Boys' Papers Wanted! *Boys of New York* . . . *Young Sports of America*, etc." The chances seem good that Barton himself put in this ad.

From all appearances *Boys' Life* was doing well in early 1912. The magazine was apparently popular with boys and circulation had grown. The February move of the magazine, to Rhode Island, does raise questions. Had Barton lost interest in Scouting and/or the magazine? It is certainly possible, although in his monthly column he appeared enthusiastic for the future. By April, Barton's column "Round the CampFire" noted that "after one year upon the turbulous [sic] year of publishing, it is more swiftly approaching the pinnacle of

perfection," and also noted "the large circulation of *Boys' Life*." For the first time, however, the column was not signed by Barton and in May the column did not appear. And then in June of 1912, on page 11 was the announcement that the magazine had been purchased by the Boy Scouts of America. Even here the facts are not clear. Barton had claimed 65,000 copies per issue. The BSA history claims it was purchased on the basis of 6100 paid *subscriptions*.⁶ The "fact sheet" refers to a *circulation* of 6,000. It seems clear that the BSA was rapidly controlling the Scouting movement and wanted its own magazine. It is possible that the Boy Scouts of America wasn't happy with its publicity in *Boys' Life* or was concerned that it couldn't control what would appear. We do know that the BSA worked extensively with *American Boy* magazine. Even though *American Boy* was promoting its "Order of the American Boy" it included, in the May, 1911, issue under "The Boy Scouts of America," a section on International Boy Scouts' Correspondence, a Report of the Field Secretary of the Boy Scouts of America and information on the Scouts and how to join, giving the address of the Boy Scouts of America. The publishers of *American Boy* even tied in to Scouting by offering to give away a Boy Scout uniform for selling 7 new subscriptions. On June 1, 1911, the publishers of *American Boy* announced that The Order of the American Boy would be discontinued. "I would advise you therefore, to organize your companies of The Order of the American Boy into patrols of The Boy Scouts of America and amalgamate with that society. . . . The *American Boy* magazine, its editors and publishers, will lend to the Boy Scouts [of America] all the help and support that they formerly gave to the Order of The American Boy. . . . We shall hereafter conduct a 'Boy Scout Department' in these pages that will be of greater interest to you, our readers, than has the O. A. B. department." Seton was to contribute a page a month which was to be "supplemented by live newsy items from our special correspondent at [BSA] headquarters in New York." From June on, *American Boy* kept its promise and extensively promoted the Boy Scouts of America. In spite of this help it seems evident that the BSA was determined to own its own magazine and just one year later they bought *Boys' Life*.

Why did Barton sell *Boys' Life*? Had he lost interest in Scouting? Did he wish to pursue other interests? Was he convinced that the BSA would start its own magazine if he didn't sell? According to Murray, W. D. Boyce had offered to finance a magazine.⁷ One thing we are sure of: the sale contract which is still kept by the BSA shows that it was George Barton who sold *Boys' Life* to the Boy Scouts of America and not Joseph Lane.

When Barton died in 1949 Ralph Cummings noted in *Dime Novel Round-Up*

that Barton had published the first issue of *Boys' Life* and "sold it out but was sorry afterwards."⁸ In a year and a half Barton had introduced a new and successful magazine for boys, a magazine which is now the leader in its field.

Notes

1. "Boys' Life Magazine Fact Sheet," courtesy of *Boys' Life Magazine*, 1325 Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, Texas.
2. "The Story of *Boys' Life*, On the occasion of the celebration of the twenty-fourth anniversary of the founding of *Boys' Life*, " Boy Scouts of America, 1935, p. 5; "Why the Boy Scouts of America Publishes *Boys' Life*, a Personal Word from Dr. James E. West, Chief Scout Executive and Editor of *Boys' Life*," Boy Scouts of America, ca 1936-1937; William D. Murray, *The History of the Boy Scouts of America*. New York: Boy Scouts of America, 1937, p. 406; J. Harold Williams, *Scout Trail, 1910-1962*. Providence, RI: Rhode Island Boy Scouts and Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1964, p. 17.
3. Edward Hamlin. "A Defense of the Dime Novel," *Dime Novel Round Up* 13, no. 151 (April 1945): 2-3.
4. Lane was from Rhode Island and is generally referred to as a Rhode Island Boy Scout but in the April issue he appears as a Staff Scoutmaster of the New England Boys Scouts in the March 17, 1911, Evacuation Day parade in Boston.
5. Murray, 408.
6. Murray, 406.
7. Murray, 406.
8. Ralph F. Cummings. "Newsy News," *Dime Novel Round-Up* 17, no. 202 (July 1949): 60.

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL BOY SCOUTS

BOYS' LIFE

BOYS AND BOY SCOUTS' MAGAZINE

Published Twice a Month by GEORGE S. HARTON & CO., 7 Water Street, Boston, Mass

Vol. I. No. 1.

FIRST MARCH EDITION

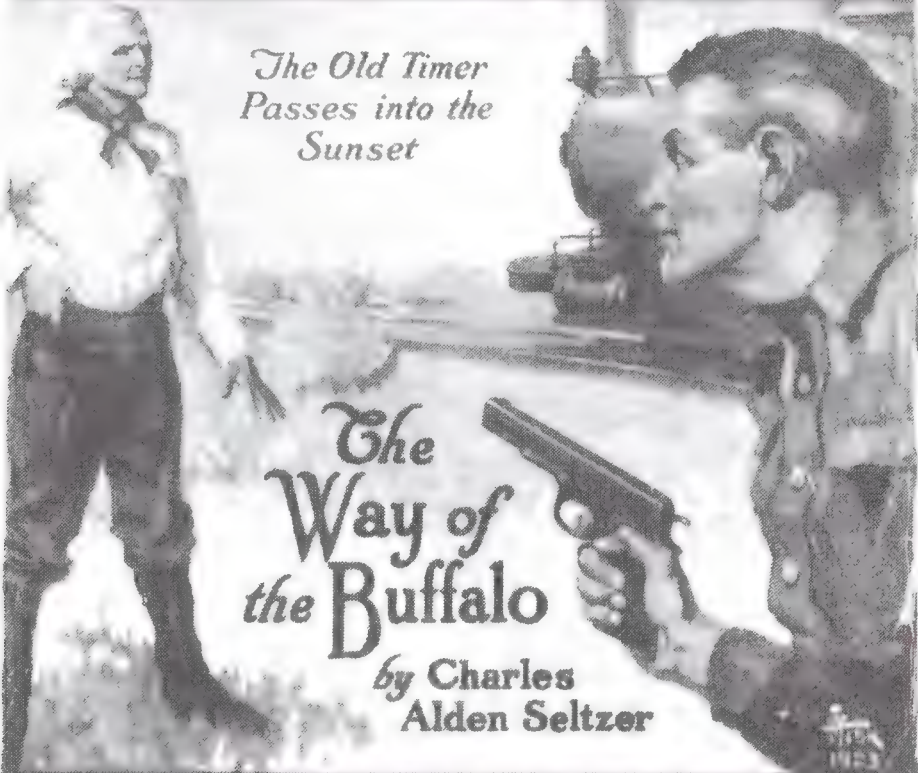
FIVE CENTS



March 1, 1911

48 Pages

ARGOSY ALL-STORY WEEKLY



*The Old Timer
Passes into the
Sunset*

*The
Way of
the Buffalo*

*by Charles
Alden Seltzer*

10¢ PER
COPY

AUGUST 4

BY THE
YEAR \$4.00

THE GREAT *GOLDEN HOURS* SERIAL OF 1900 REVISITED

Last issue we printed the cover of *Golden Hours* no. 651 (July 21, 1900) which was an artist's rendering of some of the regular writers for that story paper. This time we have before us the cover of *Golden Hours* no. 652 (July 28, 1900) with our heroes fully embarked on their camping trip. We promised profiles of the authors and others depicted on that first cover, but were not able to find information on everyone. Perhaps some of our readers may be able to help out. If so, please write to the editor.

In the photo on the facing page, the authors are (standing from left to right): Matt Royal, Charles H. Day, Mike Donovan, Weldon J. Cobb, Frank J. Earll, Harrie Irving Hancock, John DeMorgan, and S. A. D. Cox; the figure with plate in hand is Edmund McCarthy; seated, left to right, are Cornelius Shea, Fred Stearns, and Louis F. Grant.

In the meanwhile, we are able to list the following:

ABARBANELL, JACOB [or JOHN] (? - ?) Editor of *Golden Hours* story paper for Norman L. Munro. Known to have used the pseudonym "Ralph Royal" for stories in *Frank Tousey's Boys Weekly* and *Wide Awake Library*.

COBB, WELDON J. (? -1911?) Chicago author, journalist, and editor whose work appeared in publications of Beadle & Adams, Norman L. Munro, and Street & Smith and who was writing as early as 1866. He wrote the Detective School Series for the *Nick Carter Weekly*, wrote serials for *Golden Hours*, and joined the Stratemeyer Syndicate about 1905 where he wrote early titles in a number of series including Ralph of the Railroad. Listed as a writer for Frank Tousey publications, but no specific titles have been identified. Used or shared pseudonyms Allen Chapman, John L. Douglas, Engineer James Fisk, Ensign Clark Fitch, Peter T. Harkness, Roy Rockwood, Robert Steel, Archie Van, George A. Warren, and Dwight Weldon. His stories appeared in *Up To Date Boys Library* for Norman L. Munro, *Golden Library* for Albert Sibley, *Nickel Library* for the Nickel Library Co., and (besides *NCW*) *Brave and Bold*, *Boys of America*, *Boys of the World*, *Comrades*, *Good News*, *Good News Library*, *Magnet Library*, *Might and Main*, *New Medal Library*, *New Magnet Library*, *Round the World Library*, and *True Blue* for Street & Smith.

COX, STEPHEN ANGUS DOUGLAS (? - ?) Writer of historical adventure and school stories for Tousey publications. Using the pseudonym Harry Moore

he wrote all the stories in *Three Chums* (1899-1900) and the early numbers of the *Liberty Boys of "'76"* (1901-1903). Contributed stories to *Do and Dare Weekly*, *Nugget Library*, *New York Five Cent Library*, and wrote at least one Nick Carter story for Street & Smith. Contributor to Norman L. Munro's *Old Cap. Collier Library* and *Golden Hours*. Author under his own name of juvenile stories including a series set in the Revolutionary War, The Dare Boys series (12 vols., 1910-1912).

DEMORGAN, JOHN (1848-c1920) British born writer and Staten Island, NY, tax-collector, well-read with a background in the classics. Published parodies of Rider Haggard's *She* and *King Solomon's Mines* using the pseudonym Hider Ragged. Regular contributor of historical novels (specializing in Colonial and American Revolutionary War stories), science fiction, and other subjects for serials for Norman L. Munro's *Golden Hours* from 1888. Published three labor narrative serials in George Munro's *Fireside Companion*. Many of his historical novels were issued by Street & Smith in *Brave and Bold*, *Bound to Win Library*, *Boys of Liberty Library*, *Might and Main*, *New Medal Library*, *Paul Jones Weekly*, *Red Raven Library*, and *Round the World Library*. Used the pseudonyms Captain Luther Barr (shared with William Wallace Cook), John L. Douglas (a house name also used by George Waldo Browne, Weldon J. Cobb, Harrie Irving Hancock, Gilbert Patten, Fred Stearns, Franc Stone, and Ernest A. Young), Frank Sheridan, and An Old Salt (shared with William Wallace Cook and Thomas C. Harbaugh).

EARLL, FRANK J. (? - ?) Writer and publisher. Publishing offices at 177 William Street, New York. Stories in Street & Smith's *New York Five Cent Library* and *Brave and Bold*, in Norman L. Munro's *Golden Hours*, and *Varieties's Young Sports*. Formed his own publishing company, Young Sports Publishing Co. Pseudonyms include Will Wheelwright and Billy Boxer, the Referee. Publications include *Young Sports Five Cent Library* and *Young Sports of America*, the latter a story paper, in 1895.

HANCOCK, HARRIE IRVING (16 January 1868-12 March 1922) Born in Waltham, MA. Chemist, author, journalist (*Boston Globe*, 1885-1890; *New York Journal*). Newspaper correspondent in Cuba and the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. Writer for Frank Tousey, Norman L. Munro, and Street & Smith; author of boys' series books. Assistant editor for *Leslie's Weekly*, 1900-1901. Edited and revised *Collier's Cyclopedia*, 1901. Collaborated on chemistry books with Prof. George A. Ferguson, ca 1906. Member of several learned and professional societies. Author of stories for *Frank Manley's Weekly*, *Wide Awake Weekly*, and the *Young Athlete's Weekly* for Tousey using

the pseudonym "Physical Director" among others. Author of stories for Street & Smith's *Adventure Weekly* using the pen name Douglas Wells. Stories also collected in *Bound to Win Library*, *Boys of Liberty Library*, *Might and Main*, *Starry Flag Weekly*, *Magnet Library*, and *Brave and Bold*. Wrote serials for Norman L. Munro's *Golden Hours* and other stories for *Old Cap*, *Collier Library* and *Up to Date Boys Library*. Published in Ogilvie's *Eureka Detective Series*. Wrote three detective novelettes about a Chinese villain named Li Shoon for *Detective Story Magazine*. Wrote several school, adventure, and sport stories for Henry Altemus Co. including the Dave Darrin series, the Young Engineers series, and the Conquest of the United States series. Pseudonyms include Captain Geoffrey Hale and John L. Douglas.

ROYAL, MATTHEW J. [MATT] (? - ?) According to John DeMorgan in a serial published in Norman L. Munro's *Golden Hours*, Royal was a Canadian writer of juvenile fiction. Stories reprinted by Street & Smith in *Round the World Library* and *Brave and Bold*.

SHEA, CORNELIUS. (1863-1922?) Writer of science fiction serials for *Golden Hours* in the 1890s, later reprinted in Street & Smith's *Brave and Bold*. Principal writer of the Young Wild West stories for Frank Tousey's *Wild West Weekly* (1902-1915), using the pseudonym "An Old Scout." Contributed sport, mystery, circus, frontier, and general adventure serials for *Happy Days* (1900-1914). Some of the Young Wild West stories were rewritten as Ted Strong stories for the later volumes of Street & Smith's *Western Story Library*. Also wrote for Street & Smith's *Nugget Library*. Some of his stories were collected or reprinted in *Bound to Win Library* and *Brave and Bold*.

STEARNS, FREDERICK ALBERT (? - ?) Writer for Norman L. Munro (*Golden Hours*) and Frank Tousey, as well as for Street & Smith (*Bound to Win Library*, *Might and Main*, *Nugget Library*, *New York Five Cent Library*, *Brave and Bold*). Pseudonyms include John L. Douglas, Fred Thorpe, and "Frank". Creator of the popular comic character "Bones." Among his popular children's books were *Chris and the Wonderful Lamp* (1895) and *Sindbad Smith and Co.* (1896).

(Excerpted from *The Dime Novel Companion*)

CONVENTION REPORT:

Pulpcon #24 B

Richard Bleiler
University of Connecticut

The 1996 Pulpcon 24 B was held at the Ramada Park West in Asheville, North Carolina, from February 8 through February 11. The Guests of Honor were Nelson Bond (author of the Lancelot Biggs, Spaceman, stories) and mystery writer Talmage Powell.

Attendance at Pulpcon 24 B did not break 80, there was no art show, and a number of tables in the dealer's room remained vacant. Nevertheless, those who attended were in general agreement that it was one of the nicest and most relaxing Pulpcons on record. A spirit of camaraderie prevailed. Furthermore, both Guests of Honor were readily accessible, cheerfully talking with readers and friends, answering questions about their works, signing autographs, and posing for pictures.

Small though the Pulpcon was, it had the usual panels and interviews. Friday's panel provided a forum for dealers and collectors to reminisce and share their experiences in pulp collecting. Saturday's panel discussed pulp writers that they had known and whose writings they had discovered.

Nelson Bond delivered his speech on Friday night, a lively, cheerful, and witty reminiscence that recounted the way in which he began to write for the pulps before moving to writing radio shows and, briefly, working in television. He revealed that his wife Betty (who accompanied him) had also written and published a story for a pulp magazine, and that he and Betty had won the first and third prizes for their radio-playscripts in a national contest. He drew appreciative laughs when he wryly described his antiquarian book trade as "a good way to make a very little money very slowly."

Talmage Powell's interview on Saturday was less lively, but it was received with equal enthusiasm. Powell described his career as a writer of mysteries and westerns, several times self-effacingly referring to himself as "a hillbilly from North Carolina." He spoke briefly about his forthcoming collection, *Six-Gun Ladies: Romantic Tales of the West* (Alexander Books). Proof copies of the jacket of *Six-Gun Ladies* were available, and Powell cheerfully autographed them.

Pulpcon 25 will be held in San Jose, California, in early August, when the Guest of Honor will be Forrest J. Ackerman.

FULMINATIONS

Being Further Comments and Annotations
to the Episodes in the Saga of *Legend*

A Tale of Two Scientists

Just as Ernest Pratt and his alter ego Nicodemus Legend were based on the real life dime novel writer Edward Zane Carroll Judson and his alter ego Ned Buntline, the scientist Janos Christoff Bartok had a basis in fact. The Hungarian Bartok's real life counterpart was the Serbian scientist Nikola Tesla.

Nikola Tesla was born July 9, 1856, in Smiljan, Croatia, and died January 7, 1943, in New York City. His father was a Serbian-Orthodox priest and his ancestors on both sides of the family considered the church or the army as the proper professional spheres for their children. Young Nikola was something of a poetic dreamer as a boy, and there are stories of his precociousness as an inventor even at the age of five when he constructed a waterwheel based on his own imagination and unlike anything anyone had even seen before.

Perhaps his least successful boyhood experiment involved flying by umbrella from the roof of the barn. Convinced he could fly by sheer willpower, he plunged to earth and was knocked unconscious.

In spite of these mishaps he was determined to pursue a career as an engineer and enrolled in the technical University of Graz, Austria, and the University of Prague. It was at Graz where he first saw the Gramme dynamo and came up with the idea of using alternating current to power it. He would often visualize mechanical devices and then try to replicate them.

His earliest job was in a government telegraph office in Budapest and it was there that he gave birth to his first inventions, including an induction motor based on the principle of the rotating magnetic field. A subsequent job was at Continental Edison in Paris. Tesla emigrated to the United States in 1884 where he went to work for Thomas Edison. The two men did not get along well and disagreed on some basic principles, the most important of which fueled the debate over the merits of alternating-current and direct-current systems in electricity. (In *Legend*, Professor Bartok's view of the Edison with whom he worked was summed up in the phrase, "plodding troll.")

Basically, the direct-current method would have meant building a power plant in every city block in order to supply current to the neighborhood; the range was too limited. Alternating-current was not as limited in its scope. In 1885, Tesla received support from George Westinghouse who purchased the patent rights to his polyphase system of alternating-current dynamos, transformers, and motors. Eventually the alternating-current system won over Edison's direct-

current system.

Much of the rest of Tesla's life involved one ingenious invention after another, mostly built in his own laboratories. In 1891 he invented the Tesla coil, which is widely used in radio and television sets; that was also the year he became an American citizen.

At the turn of the century, Tesla was living in Colorado Springs, Colorado; it was here that he made what he considered his most important discovery—terrestrial stationery waves, thus proving that the Earth itself could conduct electricity. He was able to create man-made lightning and produce flashes measuring 135 feet.

An eccentric, he was impractical in financial matters; he also had few close friends, but numbered Mark Twain among them. He was definitely a man ahead of his time.

Prof. Janos Christoff Bartok was also ahead of his time. In the "Legendary" world of the television series, he was born in 1840 in Hungary. Proficient in five languages, Bartok is a prodigy in mathematics and electrical engineering. There appears to be no aspect of life with which he is not fascinated, from the scientific to the pseudo-scientific. According to the background notes in the press kit for the series, he won a scholarship to the University of Budapest and then emigrated to New York where he took a job at Western Union. It was here that he met Thomas Edison as well as his young protégé, Huitzilopochtli Ramos.

As with his real-life counterpart, Tesla, Bartok did not get along with Edison and there are frequent references to their rivalry in the series. We do not know the details, but apparently Edison's jealousy of the Hungarian resulted in an accusation that Bartok had stolen his ideas. Bartok moved to Sheridan, Colorado, where his experiments with electricity resulted in some interesting examples of man-made lightning. In *Legend* we are first made aware of Bartok when his experiments cause static electricity to spark on anything metallic, such as belt buckles and revolvers. There is the conviction among some of the citizens of Sheridan that the Professor is "doing the devil's work."

Bartok spends his early days in the series working on a rain-making machine and changing the course of the river. It is never explained where he gets his financial backing, but the press kit biography states this came from a wealthy widow in Denver whose scientific interests included Bartok. In his spare time Bartok reads Mark Twain and the complete works (to date) of Nicodemus Legend. In his imagination he begins to create the inventions found only in the dime novels and then imagination influences reality as he builds them as well. (Next time we will look at some of those inventions.) jrc

ADVENTURE PARADE

Our Favorite Storytellers Pass in Review

Rocco Musemeche
New Iberia, LA

Charles Alden Seltzer Question: When is a western story thoroughly enjoyable? Answer: When it is written by Charles Alden Seltzer, the Fastest Pen in the West. Names of other western story writers must surely be brought into the discussion, but isn't trying to top the top gun what the myth of the West is all about?

Charles Alden Seltzer (August 15, 1875-February 9, 1942) is a name to elicit a fond recollection of grand western stories among the old time readers. It is quite evident to any reader that this particular talespinner knows what he is about and this can be traced to Seltzer's background.

Born in Janesville, Wisconsin, Seltzer was brought up on the New Mexico ranch of his uncle as a cowpuncher. As a writer, he was helped along by his wife who steered him past innumerable rejections from short-sighted editors. His first novel to be published was *The Range Riders* (1911). Some of his work was translated to the screen as vehicles for such popular western movie stars as Tom Mix, William S. Hart, Bert Lytell, William Farnum, and Buck Jones.

[*The Coming of the Law* (1912) was filmed by Tom Mix for William Fox in 1919. Ed]

Seltzer's writing technique was such to please both eye and imagination in a flow of words that outlined the characters in the story. His secret? Seltzer made a paragraph sing with the sort of prose totally unexpected in a western story. Confrontations between hero and villain became an artful study in nail-biting at its best. And over all, characterization reigned supreme.

Denby was . . . in [Burgess'] way. That fact of itself would have been enough to drive out any thought of evading a meeting with the outlaw. What Belle Carson had told him had merely hardened him further.

He was smiling faintly when he reached the edge of the porch, for long before he came to it he had seen Denby seated there.

"Back again, eh?" said Burgess.

"Yes," said the outlaw. "Come up."

Burgess stepped, with apparent unconcern, to a point on the porch directly in front of Denby, resting his hands on his hips in a careless attitude and returning the look that Denby gave him.

Denby, Burgess saw, was fighting for his composure. The cordiality in the

man's manner was surface emotion. Deep in his eyes was a wanton, cruel, bitter rage; the reflection of the insane jealousy that the Gopher's story had aroused.

Burgess gave no indication that he had noticed the strangeness of Denby's manner. He stood, waiting patiently for the outlaw to tell why he had sent for him. Denby tried to pretend friendliness as he looked up at Burgess. It so palpably masked the malevolent rage he felt that Burgess grinned feline at him.

Denby sat quiet for an instant. But Burgess was not misled; he saw the man's muscles, trembling on the verge of action, contracting rigidly.

"There's something I want to show you, Burgess," said Denby. "I'll get it."

He rose from the chair. With a perfectly natural movement he placed his weight on it for an instant to aid his body in the upward motion. This brought the hand to a point just above the holster of the pistol at his right hip.

"I'll get it," he repeated as he rose half out of the chair. His voice was dry and light.

"This!" he breathed venomously, and drew his pistol.

The movement was as rapid as light. But equally rapid had been Burgess' movement. Denby's gun came out and fire streaked from its muzzle, the blue white smoke curling upward as it passed between Burgess' left arm and side.

Only Burgess' quickness had saved him. His left arm had moved with Denby's right, and while Denby was pulling the trigger of his weapon Burgess' left hand was gripping Denby's pistol hand and holding it away from his body, so that the bullets passed harmlessly under his arm. But even before Denby's gun began to crash Burgess' own weapon was close to the outlaw's stomach, and its muffled reports told of the deadly execution it was doing.

The action, it seemed, had all been accomplished with one single movement. A breath before, Denby had been sitting in the chair, smiling his hypocritical smile at Burgess. Now Denby was on the floor of the porch, doubled queerly, but lax and motionless, with Burgess standing over him, a wreath of smoke curling lazily upward from the muzzle of his pistol.

(Slow Burgess, 1926)

In every one of his books, riding along with Seltzer was to be a smooth canter and not a mad gallop. he gave thoughts for the reader to chew on while he meditated the course of action taken by the principal players of each story.

Some years ago a rough estimate on total sales of his books was placed at a million and a half copies with reprints of 15 titles selling 20,000 copies a year. That's a lot of hoofbeats on the western prairie, although a *New York Times* critic claimed that Seltzer wrote of a West that never was and never would be. We add that Seltzer left in the hearts of his readers a West the way they wanted it to be.

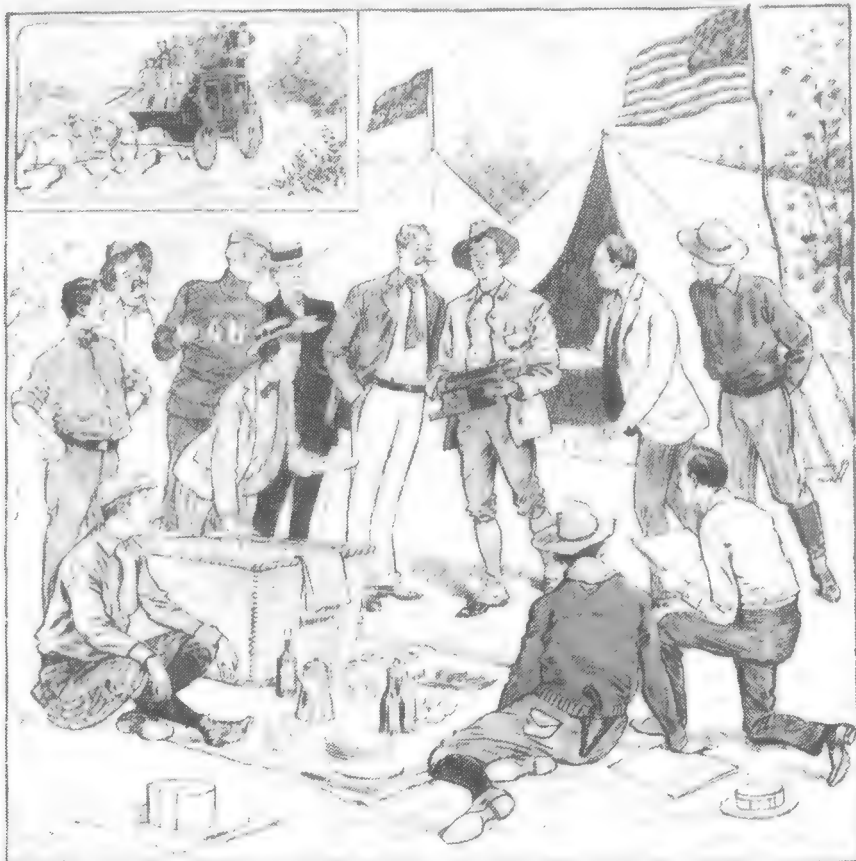
Cornelius Shea's Great Local Story, "The Grand Duke Theatre," Begins Next Week.

GOLDEN HOURS

VOL. XXVI. SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1909

NEW YORK SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1909

PRICE 5 CENTS No. 602



"GOLDEN HOURS AUTHORS' CAMPING OUT CLUB IN THE ADIRONDACKS." By JOHN DE MORGAN

THE ADIRONDACK CAMPING CLUB
18th Street, New York, N.Y.

Illustration courtesy of Children's Literature Research Collections (George Hess Collection), University of Minnesota

The cowpuncher turned writer served in his later years as a councilman in North Ormstead, Ohio, and then as mayor of that city for two years. He was a winner before the public all of his life, before his death at 65 in Cleveland.

A selection of Seltzer's books, some of which appeared originally in *Argosy*:

The Range Riders (1911); *The Two-Gun Man* (1911); *The Triangle Cupid* (1912); *The Coming of the Law* (1912); *The Trail to Yesterday* (1913); *The Boss of the Lazy Y* (1915); *The Range Boss* (1916); *The Vengeance of Jefferson Gawne* (1917); *Firebrand Trevison* (1918); *The Man with a Country* (1919); *The Ranchman* (1919); *The Trail Horde* (1920); *Drag Harlan* (1921); *Beau Rand* (1921); *Square Deal Sanderson* (1922); *The Way of the Buffalo* (1924); *Channing Comes Through* (1925); *Mystery Range* (1928); *A Son of Arizona* (1931); *Double Cross Ranch* (1932); *Silverspurs* (1935); *Parade of the Empty Boots* (1937); *Arizona Jim* (1939) [Ed]

WANTED
BRAINS BENTON SERIES

The Case of the Missing Message
The Case of the Counterfeit Coin
The Case of the Stolen Dummy
The Case of the Roving Rolls
The Case of the Waltzing Mouse
The Case of the Painted Dragon

All six titles needed, reading copies
acceptable

David L. Gurnee
P.O. Box 301
Lewis Center, OH 43035
(614) 548-0420
E-mail: DLGDLGDLG@aol.com

OUR POPULAR PUBLISHERS

No. 5: BEADLE & ADAMS

The first publisher to issue cheap paper covered novels in a continuous series, at a fixed price of ten cents, instead of issuing them sporadically was Beadle & Adams. Because the initial series bore the title *Beadle's Dime Novels*, the generic term "dime novels" has been applied to any inexpensive paper covered sensational novel.

The firm used a variety of imprints in its 48-year history (Beadle & Co., Irwin P. Beadle, and Frank Starr & Co., among them), but is generally referred to as Beadle & Adams. The "Beadle" was either Erastus Beadle (1821-1894) or his brother Irwin (1826-1882); the "Adams" was originally Robert Adams (1837-1866), later succeeded by his younger brothers, William (1838-1896) and David (1846-1886). The *Dime Novels* series was not the first of their publications, but it became the most significant. Prior to 1860, the firm had issued song sheets, song books, and a magazine, *The Home*. It was Irwin's idea to publish fiction in series for a dime that led to the success of the company. That this venture was successful is attested to by the number of competitors who hastened to take advantage of the idea, some of them going the Beadles one better by cutting the price of their fiction in half to offer half-dime or nickel novels.

Beadle's Dime Novels published stories of America's early history, from the period of the Revolution to the early frontier era. *Malaeska, the Indian Wife of the White Hunter*, by Mrs. Ann S. Stephens was the first one of them all and was published in June 1860. It was followed at monthly or two-week intervals by 320 other titles. The early printings of the first 28 numbers had plain salmon-colored covers, when illustrations were introduced to the covers on a regular basis the early numbers were reissued with illustrations.

The 8th number (published in October 1860) was Edward S. Ellis's *Seth Jones; or, The Captives of the Frontier*, which became a best-seller, due in part to its being imaginatively advertised. Ellis became a regular contributor of novels and stories to the firm. The series continued until 1874 when the *New Dime Novels* series began. This was largely made up of stories reprinted from the original series, but with colored covers. They continued to issue this series until 1885.

In 1861 the firm opened a branch in London which continued to publish Beadle titles until 1866 when George Routledge bought the rights. The same

year Orville J. Victor was hired as the chief editor. The Civil War brought a decrease in the frequency with which the books were published, but eventually the size of each edition was increased and many copies sent to the soldiers. As the war progressed, so did the firm of Beadle & Adams and new series of novels and stories, biographies, song books, and other publications were added to the original dime novels.

In 1863 Irwin P. Beadle left to form a partnership with George Munro, an employee, and create his own publishing company, Irwin P. Beadle & Co. The first publication issued by the new firm was a ten cent song book. This was followed by *Irwin P. Beadle's Ten Cent Novels*. Litigation followed because of the great similarity in design of the new series and the original *Beadle's Dime Novels*. Irwin Beadle left his new partner and within two years had started his own publishing company and began issuing *Irwin P. Beadle's American Novels*. In the meantime, his brother Erastus had begun a magazine called *Beadle's Monthly*. Robert Adams died in 1866, Erastus closed the London branch of the firm, and the next year saw the final issue of *Beadle's Monthly*.

In what was considered a shrewd editorial move, Captain Mayne Reid was engaged to write for Beadle in 1868 and in the same year the firm moved its publishing offices from 118 to 98 William Street, New York, where they would remain for nearly thirty years. It was about this time that some Beadle publications began to appear under another imprint, Frank Starr & Co.

The next major change in the Beadle publications came in the 1870s with the beginning of the colored covers on the *New Dime Novels*, the *Boys' Books of Romance and Adventure*, and *Beadle's Pocket Novels*. This was soon followed by the introduction of several series in quarto or broadleaf format. These were the *Fireside Library*, *Beadle's New York Dime Library*, the *Sunnyside Library*, the *Half-Dime Library*, and the *Waverley Library*. The *Half-Dime Library* was written for boys and introduced stories of detectives, newsboys, and bootblacks which eventually replaced the usual fare of frontier, American Indian, and pioneer stories. It also introduced (in its first number in 1877) Beadle's most successful series character, Deadwood Dick.

The Saturday Journal (later *Beadle's Weekly* and *The Banner Weekly*), begun in 1870, was Beadle's most successful story paper. The firm followed up with another paper for adult readers, *Belles and Beaux* and one for the young women of America, *Girls of Today: A Mirror of Romance*. The latter two titles, however, did not succeed.

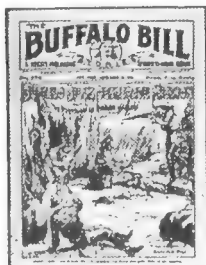
Competition for nickels and dimes for reading matter became stronger in the 1880s, but the Beadles continued to experiment with new titles and kept the old

ones going. Irwin Beadle died in 1882; his brother Erastus retired in 1889 and moved to Cooperstown. His death in 1894 preceded that of the firm by four years. The last new series begun was *The Popular Library*, but it was not a success. William Adams died in 1896 and the next year *The Banner Weekly* ended. The company had moved to smaller quarters at 92 William Street early in 1896, but was not publishing many new stories. Most of the later *Dime Libraries* and *Half-Dime Libraries* were made up of reprints from earlier issues. The executors of William Adams's estate sold the assets in Beadle & Adams to M. J. Ivers Co. and the remaining issues of the existing titles bore the Ivers imprint. This practice continued until the end of 1905. Among the new titles (made up entirely of reprints) begun by Ivers were *Beadle's Frontier Library* and *The Deadwood Dick Library*. Many years later, these series were reissued by the Arthur Westbrook Co. of Cleveland.

Other Beadle & Adams titles include *American Tales*, *Beadle's American Library*, *Beadle & Adams' Twenty Cent Novels*, *Beadle's Dime Fiction*, *Beadle's Boy's Library of Sport, Story and Adventure*, *Beadle's Dime Tales, Traditions and Romance of Border and Revolutionary Times*, *Beadle's Fifteen Cent Novels*, *Beadle's Half Dime Novelettes*, *Beadle's Sixpenny Tales*, *Frank Starr's Fifteen Cent Illustrated Novels*, *Frank Starr's Ten Cent Pocket Library*, *Irwin's Sixpenny Tales*, *Irwin's Ten Cent Stories*, *New and Old Friends*, and *The Young New Yorker*.

(Excerpted from *The Dime Novel Companion*)

BUFFALO BILL STORIES



Buffalo Bill is the hero of a thousand exciting adventures among the Redskins. These are given to our boys only in the Buffalo Bill Stories. They are bound to interest and please you.

Recent books in review, or forthcoming publications noted

ONCE MORE, SECRET SERVICE OPERATOR #5

Curtis Steele (Emile Tepperman). *Patriots' Death March* in *High Adventure* (formerly *Pulp Review*) No. 26 (March 1996): 4-72. Published by Adventure House, 914 Laredo Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20901. ISBN 1-886937-10-9. \$6.00 plus \$1.25 postage. Six issues for \$36. Facsimile reprint from *Secret Service Operator #5 Magazine*, March-April 1937.

In spite of the information on the cover, this is the 7th, not the 8th, in the "Purple Invasion" series within the Jimmy Christopher stories. The army of the Central Empire still holds the upper hand in America. Jimmy Christopher is trying to get weapons to the American Defense Forces in the Rockies and his fiancée, Diane Elliot, is in the hands of the enemy. Of course, she is rescued and Jimmy Christopher builds an army of volunteers, 1,000,000 strong, called the American Revolutionary Army. By the end of the story, however, things look pretty grim as Operator #5's chief, Z7, is forced to surrender the ADF to the Purple Empire. There are the usual footnotes that help explain who's who and what has gone before. Included as a back-up feature is Norman A. Daniels's "One Thousand Suspects," a Dan Fowler story from *G-Men Detective*, December 1944. jrc

Curtis Steele (Emile Tepperman) *Revolt of the Lost Legions* in *High Adventure* No. 27 (May 1996): 4-73. Published by Adventure House, 914 Laredo Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20901. ISBN 1-886937-11-7. \$6.00 plus \$1.25 postage. Facsimile reprint from *Secret Service Operator #5 Magazine*, May-June 1937.

In this 8th episode of the saga (erroneously numbered 9th on the cover) Rudolph I is planning his coronation, interrupted a few stories back. Prime Minister Flexner's daughter, Freda Flexner, is captured by the Americans to use as a bargaining chip for the life of Jimmy Christopher's sister, Nan. The flagship of the Imperial Navy, the *Kondor*, is captured and now flies the American flag. The War is carried to the West Coast and there is a hint that the tides are turning as the story comes to an end. (We must wait several months for the continuation; the next issue of *High Adventure* will showcase *G-8 and His Battle Aces*.) This volume also includes "Murder's Messenger," by Robert Leslie Bellem, a Dan Turner story from *Spicy Detective Stories*, December 1935, and a two page comic strip, "Sally the Sleuth: Rogues in Rags," from the

same magazine, September 1938. [Note: If you cannot wait to learn the ending of the "Purple Invasion" series in the next four installments, read Will Murray's survey, "The Three Worlds of Jimmy Christopher," in the book reviewed below.]

jrc

MORE PULP HISTORY

James Van Hise (ed). *Pulp Masters*. Yucca Valley, CA: Midnight Graffiti Pubs., 1996. \$14.95 plus \$4.00 postage from Midnight Graffiti Pubs., 57754 Onaga Trail, Yucca Valley, CA 92284.

This collection of 16 articles on pulp magazines follows the example set by the 1994 collection *Pulp Heroes of the Thirties* from the same editor. As with the previous volume, many of the items were previously published in *Echoes* and other fanzines. The Shadow, an interview with Walter B. Gibson, Carroll John Daly's "Satan Hall," The Spider, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Robert E. Howard, the Operator #5 stories, Margaret Brundage, cover artist for *Weird Tales*, are among the subjects covered. Contributors include Erika Frenslley, Will Murray, John Edwards, Chuck Juzek, Tom Johnson, Don Hutchison, and James Van Hise. Among the more interesting contributions are the article on writing by Norvell Page from *Writers Digest Yearbook* (1935) and the bibliography of Lester Dent's work by Will Murray. This serves as a good general introduction for those who want to learn a lot about the pulps in a short time. Lavishly illustrated in black and white with covers and interior illustrations from the original magazines, but the cover illustrations do not reproduce as well as the interiors. It is also unfortunate that the page of information on "Modern Pulp Fandom" which lists fanzines in the field is not entirely up to date (a sample issue of *Echoes* is \$4.50, not \$3.60).

jrc

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS RECEIVED

Burroughs Bulletin, New Series, no. 25, January 1996 [Published quarterly for members of the (Edgar Rice) Burroughs Bibliophiles; focus on *The Land That Time Forgot*] George McWhorter, Curator, The Burroughs Memorial Collection, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292. \$28 per year.

ECHOES, Vol. 15, no. 2 (April 1996) Whole number 86 [For pulp magazine collectors. "The Saga of the Masked Rider," by Nick Carr pt. 5; "Justice & Co.," by Jeffrey T. Zverloff; "Dan Fowler: Ace of the G-Men," pt. 1, by John Edwards; "Fu Manchu vs. Cthulhu," by Rick Lai; "Buck Robertson Rides with Jim Hatfield," by Andy Salansky] Fading Shadows, Inc., 504 E. Morris Street, Seymour, TX 76380. \$4.50 per issue, 3 issues for \$13.50, 6 issues for \$26. Bi-monthly with extra issue at Pulpeon time.

The Horatio Alger Society Newshoy, Vol. 34, no. 1 (January February 1996) [For collectors of Horatio Alger and other juvenile series authors; includes articles about the late Bob Williman, Alger and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the books of Albertus T. Dudley, and a preview of the Alger convention in Stratford, Ontario, May 2-5] Robert E. Kasper, 585 E. St. Andrews Drive, Media, PA 19063. \$20 per year, which includes membership in the Society.

Martha's KidLit Newsletter, Vol. 8, nos. 1 and 2 (January and February 1996) [For collectors of Out of Print Children's Books; articles on operating a children's bookstore, Tasha Tudor, Eugene Field, Enid Blyton, and Joan Walsh Anglund] Martha Rasmussen, Box 1488, Ames, IA 50014. Monthly; \$30 per year. (An index to vols. 1-7 is available for \$5 postage paid)

Story Paper Collectors' Digest, Vol. 50, no. 589 (January 1996) [For collectors of British boys' and girls' stories and papers; the *British Dime Novel Round Up* and a publication that can be recommended without reservation!] Mary Cadogan, 46 Overbury Avenue, Beckenham, Kent BR3 2PY, England. Monthly publication. Write for subscription rates. Now in its 50th year of publication!

Susabella Passengers and Friends, (January 1996) [A nostalgia publication for collectors and readers of all children's series books; articles on Robert Louis Stevenson, Nancy Drew, Judy Bolton, and Betty MacDonald's Mrs. Piggie Wiggle, as well as the usual quizzes] \$15 per year, bi monthly. Garrett Knute Lothe, 80 Ocean Pines Lane, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.

The Whispered Watchword, Vol. #96-1 (February 1996), Vol. #96-2 (March 1996) [Newsletter of the Society of Phantom Friends; articles include: the original house on which the Farrington Pett mansion in the Judy Bolton stories was based; interview with author Cherie Bennett; cliffhanger endings to series books (how to make readers come back for the next book); locales in the Beany Malone stories; on going discussions of the merits of Trixie Belden; reviews of new series books] Kate Emburg, 4100 Cornelia Way, N. Highland, CA 95660. \$26 per year.

Yellowback Library, Numbers 139 (January 1996) and 140 (February 1996) [Series Books, Dime Novels, and Related Literature; this is the place to look for dealers who

may have those long-wanted books; articles on Ted Scott, a reprint of David K. Vaughan's "American Social Values in Juvenile Series Fiction" from an earlier *YL*, "My Father, Fran Striker," by Fran Striker, Jr.] Gil O'Gara, P. O. Box 36172, Des Moines, IA 50315. \$30 per year, \$15 for six months.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for your dedication and effort; it makes collecting more enjoyable and fraternal.

David A. Moulton
Arlington, VA

Check enclosed for a two year renewal of DNRU. I just acquired a copy of *Golden Library*, vol. II, no. 44, "The Boy Politician; or, Electioneering for the Right," by Colonel Baldwin. Published by Albert Sibley, 18 Rose St., NY, 1888. I don't remember having seen this publisher before. I've enjoyed DNRU for over 20 years. It is a tribute to the hobby that this publication has continued to provide accurate and informative articles for so long a period of time. My best wishes for your continued success!

Bart Nyberg
Downers Grove, IL

Eddie LeBlanc's "Dime Novel Sketch" of the *Golden Library* (published from Oct 1, 1886 to Dec 15, 1889, by Albert Sibley) appeared in *DNRU* #435, December 15, 1968. There are a few numbers in the Cox Collection (most of the numbers are in the Hass Collection, University of Minnesota); we once found a bound volume of these small booklets in a store near the University of Minnesota campus.

I saw a write-up on books on early Army fliers of the World War I time era. I have some and would be interested in your magazine, *Dime Novel Round-Up*, so I am enclosing a check for a year's subscription.

Pete H. King
Venice, CA

Just a quick note to acknowledge your card and to enclose my dues for two years. I enjoy DNRU and I think you've really done a nice job. As a researcher, I particularly enjoyed your bibliography of the Year's Work for '94. That will

be invaluable as years go by documenting work undertaken.

Currently I'm doing the time consuming research work on my next book-- on New York Book Company Algers. The same type of book as the three previous [on A. L. Burt, Donohue, and Whitman]. I've completed all the cover and spine drawings and am now alternating between analyzing all the individual copies in my collection (about 500) by year, by titles, and by cover design and doing the deep digging in libraries to turn up historical background information on the Company itself, and its owners. I plan an April 1997 publication date so it will be introduced at the May 1997 Alger Convention. Only one more book to go, on some of the smaller Alger publishers (New Warner, Saalfeld, Goldsmith, etc.) and that will complete the 5 as a set, which was my original intention. If you have any source information on any of these (including, and especially, New York Book Company) I'd appreciate hearing from you. I have one DNRU article index which has been helpful in leading me to my file of original copies which dates back about 20 years.

Brad Chase
Enfield, CT

In the interest of perpetuating the deep affection for 19th century juvenile literature and in the hope that you will continue your fine work in effecting this noble purpose, I enclose my check for \$15. At my age, 93, come April 13, I could be the oldest of your many enthusiastic subscribers, but my great age does not detract from my enjoyment of the work performed so affectionately. I'm sure, and I hope you continue with as much skill and grace as you are doing.

Well do I remember the fire and fervor and enthusiasm with which I read at age 10 my first Alger, the first of about 100, followed by the Frank Merriwells and others of that genre. "Dime novel" or not, I enjoyed them. They, of course, were followed by the serious works of the masters, which is as it should be in the pursuit of man's exemplara of good reading that endures.

I am sure you enjoy your work, and I hope you continue to do so for many years in the very best of good personal and professional health.

David Soibelman
Los Angeles, CA

We also received a note from Albert Pohlman of Seymour, WI. Mr. Pohlman is 91 years old and we were able to supply him with a copy of a Deadwood Dick story (*The Double Daggers; or, Deadwood Dick's Defiance*, originally published in 1877, but reprinted later in the *Deadwood Dick Library*) and he expressed his gratitude, ending his note by saying he reads each issue of *Dime Novel Round-Up* "from cover to cover." Those are the kind of readers we like! (Ed)

NOTES & QUERIES

Mea Culpa! The sharp eyes of Charlie Shubuk of Bronx, NY, caught the error in the bibliography at the end of Alan Pickrell's article in the last issue. That Shadow graphic novel was published in 1988, not in 1919. He also questioned whether we should have included the city in the article about the publisher Norman L. Munro. 168 William Street was, of course, in New York. We tend to take this for granted; if the city is not given it is New York. Perhaps we should not make this assumption. Charlie claims little understanding of dime novels, but he is knowledgeable in many other areas, including early detective fiction and film. He is a voracious reader.

Palmer Cox. Wayne Morgan (75 Markham Street, Unit 2, Toronto, Ontario, M6J 2G4, Canada) writes us about his quest for material by the cartoonist and writer Palmer Cox found in the paper *Wild Oats* between 1875 and 1881. He has been working on the life and work of Palmer Cox for some time and has presented papers on Cox's famous Brownies series at several conferences, including the PCA/ACA meeting in Chicago in 1994.

At present he is preparing an article called "Palmer Cox: A Grandfather to the Comics" for *Inks*, the cartoon and comic art studies tri-annual published by Ohio State University. To quote Mr. Morgan:

My articulation of Cox's contributions to the development of comics begins with his "comic strips" in *Wild Oats*. I was able to research several issues at the New York Historical Society last year, but unable to acquire images in any form. The volumes were bound; photocopies were not possible and photography facilities absent. The only other publicly-held issues of any quantity at the Library of Congress turned out to be incorrectly listed in the *Union List of Serials*.

Attempts to buy from dealers, such as Hughes and Barber, have not yielded any responses and Mr. LeBlanc's suggestion that the University might have some [did not prove true]. Until LeBlanc sent me a copy of his bibliography, I had no idea that your community had any interest in publications such as *Wild Oats*.

For these reasons can you place some sort of note in your magazine that I would like to find a collector or collection of *Wild Oats*? I am interested in locating issues from late 1875 through to its demise in 1881. I have identified 23 Cox related issues from December 15, 1875, through February 7, 1877, the

issues I worked from in New York. Beyond this date I expect to find more cartoons.

While I am not adverse to purchase, I simply need access to certain dates so that I might acquire images to accompany this essay. Secondly, I would like to research the period from February 1877 through 1881.

Is there anyone among our readers who can assist Mr. Morgan?

Red Ryder Series Books. Your editor plans writing an article on the Whitman series books (1941-1956) based on Fred Harman's *Red Ryder* comic strip, but lacks at least one title, *Red Ryder and the Thunder Trail*. This was written by Jerry McGill and published in 1956. It may be the final title in the series. Another title listed in the University of South Florida bibliography, *Red Ryder: Dead or Alive*, does not appear in OCLC. Does anyone know anything further about this title? Please write in care of *Dime Novel Round-Up*. The opening scene of the Red Ryder films with Wild Bill Elliott show our heroes, Red and Little Beaver, stepping out of the pages of an oversize copy of one of these Whitman books.

Calling All Readers! While we have a healthy supply of manuscripts in the inventory to sustain this magazine for some time to come, we can always use more articles and letters. To start with, we'd like to share stories of how we began reading and collecting, whether it was the dime novels, the series books, or the pulp magazines. Did you come across old copies in an attic somewhere? Were you given your first series books for birthdays or Christmas? Did you find the magazines on the newsstand? What were your favorites and are they still your favorites? And, that most interesting question: why are they your favorites?

Your editor read his first Hardy Boys book 50 years ago (*The Secret Panel*, a Christmas present), his first Nick Carter, Frank and Dick Merriwell, and Deadwood Dick in his last days in high school and early days of college, and his first pulp magazine (*Weird Tales*) when his father brought him an issue to read in bed when he was recovering from an illness.

Pulp Reprints While we continue to list the contents of the reprint series *Behind the Mask* we often do not give enough credit to this fine anthology of classic pulp stories. Each quarterly issue contains at least three short novels, many of them from the less well known authors and pulp magazines. It is not a full facsimile, as is *High Adventure*, in that the editor does not attempt to reproduce the original page format. Instead, he pastes up the material in three columns of

text per page, illustrations and all. Recent issues have been well printed and attractive in appearance. We understand he still has a number of back issues for sale. At \$4.00 per issue and \$1.50 for postage, this is one of the best bargains today! Write Tom & Ginger Johnson at Fading Shadows, Inc., 504 East Morris Street, Seymour, TX 76380. Tell them you read it in the **Round-Up**!

Ned Buntline It is well known that Ned Buntline (perhaps the most famous dime novelist of all time) used real people as characters in many of his stories. Buffalo Bill and Wild Bill Hickok come readily to mind. Ned is said to have promised to use Seth Kinman, whom he appears to have met in California, in one of his dime novels (presumably published between 1871 and 1886). Did he fulfill his promise? If anyone recognizes this story (Kinman's name does not appear in the title of any Buntline story we have seen recorded) please contact Prof. John W. Staas, 4125 Greenglen Road, Toledo, OH 43614. His phone number is (419) 381-9935. Also, anyone having an extensive knowledge of Buntline's works with a complete bibliography is requested to write the editor of *Dime Novel Round-Up*. How complete is Monaghan's bibliography of nearly 200 fiction titles? Does anyone know?

In Memoriam. We have lost several individuals in our field, including Norma Dent, the widow of Lester Dent, the creator of Doc Savage; Lester Belcher; and Norman A. Daniels. Mrs. Dent died August 23, 1995. Lester Belcher, an enthusiastic collector and reader of pulp magazines who attended most of the annual Pulpcon gatherings died December 31, 1995. Norman A. Daniels was a prolific author of detective and adventure fiction who will be remembered for his contributions to many series including the Dan Fowler, G-Man stories, and many novelizations of television series, including *The Avengers*. Mr. Daniels died in June 1995.

WANTED

G. A. HENTY

SCRIBNER & WELFORD EDITIONS

Seventeen titles where first in the bound-in catalog is *Two Thousand Years Ago* and occupies a full page:

- 1) *Bonnie Prince Charlie*
- 2) *The bravest of the brave*
- 3) *By sheer pluck*
- 4) *The Dragon and the Raven*
- 5) *Facing Death*
- 6) *A Final Reckoning*
- 7) *For Name and Fame*
- 8) *For the Temple*
- 9) *In Freedom's Cause*
- 10) *In the Reign of Terror*
- 11) *The Lion of the North*
- 12) *Orange and Green*
- 13) *St. George for England*
- 14) *Through the Fray*
- 15) *True to the Old Flag*
- 16) *Under Drake's Flag*
- 17) *With Clive in India*

ALSO INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING ENTIRE COLLECTIONS

**TRUMAN HOLLAND
315 SOUTH ROYAL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314
(703) 684-8134**